

TMA**TRUCK
MANUFACTURERS
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FHWA-97-2278-3

May 20, 1996

Mr. Rodney E. Slater
Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

LEGS./REGS. DIV.

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FEDERAL
HIGHWAY
ADMINISTRATION

Dear Mr. Slater:

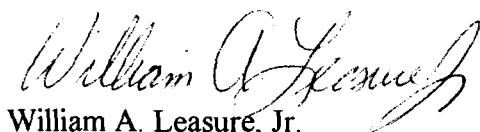
REFERENCE: Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations; Parts and Accessories Necessary for Safe Operation: Television Receiver and Data Display Units - Notice of Proposed Rulemaking; Request for Comments [FHWA Docket No. MC-96-5]

The Truck Manufacturers Association (TMA), whose members include all of the major U.S. manufacturers of medium and heavy-duty trucks, submits the following comments in response to the subject Notice. TMA member companies include: Ford Motor Company, Freightliner Corporation, General Motors Corporation, Mack Trucks, Inc., Navistar International Transportation Corp., PACCAR Inc, and Volvo GM Heavy Truck Corporation.

TMA fully supports the Office of Motor Carrier's continuing effort to respond to the President's Regulatory Reform Initiative to eliminate obsolete and burdensome requirements on the motor vehicle industry and this specific proposal to delete Section 393.88, Television Receivers, of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations. We concur with the agency's determination, as stated in the NPRM, that the requirement is obsolete and may have the unintended effect of discouraging the use of intelligent transportation systems which utilize an in-vehicle display screen which may be viewed by the driver while the vehicle is being operated. Such systems include traveler information systems and collision warning/avoidance systems which have the potential to improve productivity and safety, respectively. Although the ultimate benefits provided by such devices, their cost-effectiveness, and acceptance by drivers remains to be defined, their usage should not be restricted by an outdated, obsolete regulation.

TMA staff are available to provide additional information the agency may require.

Sincerely,

William A. Leasure, Jr.
Executive DirectorDOCKET MC-96-5-2
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